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ABSTRACT

This bibliography is intended to (1) encourage research in contemporary black American drama, which between 1955 and 1970 played an important part in American theatre activity; (2) facilitate comparative examinations into the differences and similarities between black drama and drama of other American minority groups; and (3) serve as a pedagogical aid. The plays included in this bibliography were both published and produced in New York City (either on Broadway, off-Broadway, or in one of the black theatres). The bibliographic information includes the place and date of the first New York production and some indication of the length of the play. (RB)

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A Select Bibliography of Plays written by Black American Playwrights Between 1955 and 1970

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A Select Bibliography of Plays written by Black American Playwrights Between 1955 and 1970

The purpose of this bibliography is threefold. First, it is intended to encourage and facilitate research in modern and contemporary black American drama, which between 1955 and 1970, was an important part of American theatre activity, both avant garde and traditional. Second, it is meant to encourage and facilitate comparative examinations into the differences and similarities between black drama and the drama of other American minority groups. Third, this bibliography is intended as a pedagogical aid. Hopefully, it will encourage the inclusion of a variety of black American plays in courses dealing with modern and contemporary American Theatre.

Those plays are included which were both published and produced in New York City (whether on Broadway, off-Broadway, off-off Broadway, or in one of the black theatres). I have not ignored plays produced in other black cultural centers such as Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisci, New Jersey, or Cleveland. Plays done in these cities were seldom published unless they first received New York production.

Besides the normal bibliographic information, I have included, whenever possible, the place and date of the first New York production, and some indication as to the length of the play. If a play was first produced outside New York, I have noted the place and date of that first production.

Baldwin, James. The Amen Corner. New York: Dial Press, 1964. Three acts. Produced in 1965 (April 15) at the Ethyl Barrymore Theatre.

_____. Blues for Mister Charlie. New York: Dial Press, 1964. Three acts. Produced in 1964 (April 23) at the Ante Theatre by the Actors' Studio.

Bass, Kingsley D. Jr. We Righteous Bombers. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. Three acts. Produced in 1968.

Bullins, Ed. Clara's Ole Man. In Five Plays by Ed Bullins. One act. Produced in 1968 (March 6) by the American Place Theatre.

_____. The Electronic Nigger. In Five Plays by Ed Bullins. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1969. One act. Produced in 1968 (March 6) at the American Place Theatre.

_____. How Do You Do: A Nonsense Drama. Mill Valley, California: Illumination Press, 1967. One Act. Produced in 1965 (August 5) in San Francisco by the Fire House Repertory Company, and again in 1968 (May 20) at the New Lafayette Theatre.

_____. In New England winter. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. One act in seven episodes. Produced in 1967 and again in 1971 (January 26) by the New Federal Theatre at the Henry Street Playhouse.

_____. In the wine Time. In Five Plays by Ed Bullins. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1969. Three acts. Produced in 1969 (December 10) at the New Lafayette Theatre.

_____. A Son Come Home. In Five Plays by Ed Bullins. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1969. One act. Produced in 1968 (March 6) at the American Place Theatre.

Caldwell, Ben. Family Portrait. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. One act. Produced in 1968.

_____. The First Militant Preacher. Newark, New Jersey: Jihad Press, 1967. One act. Produced in 1969 (July 30) at Tambellini's Gate Theatre.

_____. The King of Soul or the Devil and Otis Redding. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. Produced in 1968.

Childress, Alice. Trouble In Mind. In Black Theatre. Edited by Lindsay Patterson. New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1971. Produced in 1955 (November 4) at the Greenwich Mews Theatre.

_____. Mojo: A Black Love Story. In Black World, XX (April, 1970). One act. Produced in 1970 (April) by the Negro Ensemble Company.

Davidson, N. R., Jr. El Hajj Malik. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. One act. Produced in 1968 and again in 1970 (October 3) by the Afro-American Studio.

Davis, Ossie. Purlie Victorious. New York: Samuel French, Inc., 1961. Three acts. Produced in 1961 (September 28) at the Cort Theatre.

Douglas, Rodney. Voice of the Ghetto. New York: Samuel French, Inc., 1968. One act. Produced in 1968 (March 20) by the New Day Repertory Theatre at Lakewood School.

Elder, Lonne, III. Ceremonies in Dark Old Men. New York: Noonday Press, 1969. Two acts. Produced in 1969 (February 4) by New York Ensemble Company at St. Mark's Theatre.

Feibleman, Peter S. Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright. Cleveland: World Publishing Co., 1963. Produced in 1962 (December 22) at the Booth Theatre.

Flagg, Ann. Great Gettin' Up Morning. New York: Samuel French, Inc., 1964. One act. Produced in 1964 as part of the collegiate playwriting contest.

Gordone, Charles. No Place to be Somebody. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1969. Three acts. Produced in 1969 (May 2) at the Shakespeare Festival Public Theatre.

Hansberry, Lorraine. Raisin in the Sun. New York: Samuel French, Inc., 1959. Three acts. Produced in 1959 (March 11) at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

_____. The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window. New York: Random House, 1965. Three acts. Produced in 1964 (October 14) at the Longacre Theatre.

Hughes, Langston. Simply Heaven. New York: Dramatists Play Service, 1957. Three acts. Produced in 1957 (May 22) at the 85th Street Theatre.

_____. The Prodigal Son. In Players Magazine. XLIII (December 1967). One act. Produced in 1965 (May 20) at the Greenwich Mews Theatre.

Jackmon, Marvin X. Flowers for the Trashman. In Black Fire. Edited by LeRoi Jones and Larry Neal. New York: William Morrow and Co., 1968. One act. Produced in 1970 (January 21) at the Afro-American Studio.

Jones, LeRoi. The Baptism. New York: Grove Press, 1964. One act. Produced in 1964 (March 23) at the Writers' Stage Theatre.

_____. Dutchman. New York: William Morrow and Co., 1964. One act. Produced in 1964 (December 16) at St. Mark's Playhouse.

_____. Great Goodness of Life. In Best Short Plays of the World Theatre 1958-1967. Edited by Stanley Richards. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1968. Produced in 1969 (July 30) at Tambellini's Gate Theatre.

_____. Home On the Range. In The Drama Review, XII (Summer, 1968). One act. Produced in 1968 (May 20) at the Fillmore East by the Cut Theatre.

_____. The Slave Ship. Newark, New Jersey: Jihad Press, 1970. Produced in 1969 (November 11) at the Chelsea Theatre Center in the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

_____. The Toilet. New York: Grove Press, 1964. One act. Produced in 1964 (December 16) at St. Mark's Playhouse.

Kennedy, Adrienne, The Funnyhouse of a Negro. In Black Drama: An Anthology. Edited by William Brasmer and Dominick Consolo. Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., 1970. One act. Produced in 1964 (January 15) at the Crickett Theatre.

_____. A Lesson in Dead Language. In Collision Course. Edited by Edward Parone. New York: Vintage Press, 1968. Produced in 1970 by Theatre Genesis at St. Mark's Church in the Bowery.

_____. The Owl Answers. In New American Plays, Vol. II. Edited by William Hoffman. New York: Hill and Wang, 1968. One act. Produced in 1965 (December 16) at the Theatre de Lys.

_____. A Rat's Mass. In New Black Playwrights. Edited by William Couch. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968. One act. Produced in 1966 (April 12) by the Theatre Company of Boston. New York production came sometime between 1966 and 1969.

Macbeth, Robert. A Black Ritual. In Black Theatre Magazine, #2. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: New Lafayette Theatre Publications, 1969. One act. Produced in 1968 (May 20) at the Fillmore East.

Mackey, William. Behold, Cometh the Vanderkellans. New York: Azazel Books, 1967. One act. Produced in 1971 (March 31) at the Theatre de Lys.

Milner, Ron. Who's Got His Own. In Black Drama Anthology. Edited by Woodie King and Ron Milner. New York: Columbia University Press, 1972. One act. Produced in 1966 (October 12) at the American Place Theatre.

Mitchell, Loften. A Land Beyond the River. In The Black Teacher and the Dramatic Arts. Connecticut: Negro University Press, 1970. Three acts. Produced in 1957 (March 28) at the Greenwich Mews Theatre.

Moses, Gilbert. Roots. In The Free Southern Theatre. Edited by Thomas Dent, Gilbert Moses, and Richard Schechner. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1969. One act. Produced in 1969 (October 1) at the Afro-American Studio.

Pitcher. Oliver. The One. In Black Drama Anthology. Edited by Woodie King and Larry Neal. New York: Columbia University Press, 1972. One act. Produced in 1972 (January 14) by the Negro Ensemble Company. The play was finished by 1970 and may have been produced earlier.

Raphael, Lennox. Che. North Hollywood, California: Contact Books, 1969. Produced in 1969 (March 28) at the Freestore Theatre.

Salimu. Growin' into Blackness. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. One act. Produced in 1969.

Sanchez, Sonia. Sister Son/ji. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. One act. Produced in 1968 and again in 1972 (January 16) by the Negro Ensemble Company.

Shepp, Archie. Junebug Graduates Tonight. In Black Drama Anthology. Edited by Woodie King and Larry Neal. New York: Columbia University Press, 1972. Two acts. Produced in 1967 (February 26) at the Chelsea Theatre Center.

Shine, Ted. Contribution. In Black Drama: An Anthology. Edited by William Brasmer and Dominick Consolo. Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., 1970. One act. Produced in 1969 (March 25) by the Negro Ensemble Company at St. Mark's Playhouse.

_____. Shoes. In Encore Magazine, XII. Tallahassee: Florida A and M University Press, 1969. Produced in 1970 (March 9) at Tambellini's Gate Theatre.

Stokes, Herbert. The Man Who Trusted the Devil Twice. In New Plays from the Black Theatre. Edited by Ed. Bullins. New York: Bantam Books, 1969. One act. Produced in 1969.

Ward, Douglas Turner. Brotherhood. In Black Drama Anthology. Edited by Woodie King and Ron Milner. New York: Columbia University Press, 1972. Produced in 1970 (March 10) at St. Mark's Playhouse by the Negro Ensemble Company.

_____. Day of Absence. In New Black Playwrights. Edited by William Couch. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968. One act. Produced in 1965 (November 15) at St. Mark's Playhouse.

_____. Happy Ending. In Black Drama: An Anthology. Edited by William Brasmer and Dominick Consolo. Columbus Ohio: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., 1970. One act. Produced in 1965 (November 15) at St. Mark's Playhouse.

White, Joseph. Old Judge Mose Is Dead. In The Drama Review. XII (Summer, 1968). Produced in 1969 (August 28) at the Hudson Guild Theatre.

X, Marvin. Take Care of Business. In The Drama Review, XII (Summer, 1968). One act. Produced in 1969 (October, 1) at the Afro-American Theatre.